



## Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

P.O. Box 1990, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990  
Fax Number 805.564.5480

Phone Number 805.564.5437  
[www.santabarbaraCA.gov](http://www.santabarbaraCA.gov)

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**AGENDA DATE:** February 6, 2008

**TO:** Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

**FROM:** Front Country Trails Task Force Staff

**SUBJECT:** Management Recommendations for the Front Country Trails

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Front Country Trails (FCT) Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force (Task Force) forward the Management Recommendations for the Front Country Trails to the Los Padres National Forest Supervisor, City Park and Recreation Commission, and County Parks Commission.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### Background

At the Front Country Trails (FCT) Task Force work session on Saturday November 17, 2007, the Task Force considered a number of management recommendations for the front country trail system. Included as Attachment 1 to this staff report, the recommendations represent the culmination of Task Force discussion during nine public meetings, public input, trails management research, and an assessment of the conditions, opportunities, and constraints within the Santa Barbara front country.

Overall, during the work session, the Task Force expressed support for the management recommendations. The Task Force also had a general discussion about key considerations, including the elements of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the three agencies, and areas of specific importance to the Task Force, such as the development of trail standards.

Based on the discussion at the November work session and a discussion meeting with trails stakeholders, staff made minor clarification edits to the recommendations. These edits are shown in ~~strike through~~ and underline format. The purpose of the meeting with the stakeholders was to answer questions about the recommendations, and discuss opportunities to collaborate with implementation.

#### Management Recommendations

This staff report presents the management recommendations for action by the Task Force. In addition, at the request of the Task Force, staff provides a draft matrix (Attachment 2) to illustrate the schedule for implementation of the recommendations.

In addition to a proposed timeline for implementation, the matrix indicates whether a budget impact is anticipated. These impacts are not yet quantified and generally do not include the current staff resources assigned to the Task Force.

#### Next Steps

A number of next steps and schedule have been identified if the Task Force elects to forward the recommendations.

- Step 1: The first step is to forward the recommendations to the Los Padres National Forest Supervisor, City Park and Recreation Commission, and County Parks Commission. (March 2008)
- Step 2: Following their consideration and concurrence with the Task Force, the recommendations would be forwarded to the County Board of Supervisors and the Santa Barbara City Council. At that time, in addition to concurrence with the recommendations, staff would be seeking authority to begin developing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the Supervisors and Council. (April – May 2008)
- Step 3: Staff would develop draft MOU language for consideration by the Task Force prior to returning to the respective Commissions, and then the Board of Supervisors and City Council for approval. (May – June 2008)
- Step 4: With an MOU in place, the Forest Service, County, and City will have established the framework from which to implement the recommendations. (June 2008 - )

#### Task Force Meeting Schedule and Topics

As part of the Task Force's consideration of the recommendations and implementation matrix, staff recommends that the Task Force establish a meeting schedule for the remainder of 2008. Rather than meeting on a monthly basis, staff recommends that the Task Force consider meeting when there are key milestones, or opportunities to provide direction and review results related to the management recommendations. These public meetings would continue to be televised and held at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber. Attachment 3 outlines these milestones and proposed meeting dates.

- ATTACHMENT:**
- 1. Management Recommendations for the Front Country Trails
  - 2. Draft Implementation Matrix
  - 3. Proposed Task Force 2008 Meeting Schedule

**SUBMITTED BY:** Jill E. Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, City of Santa Barbara